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REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

(Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 28 July - 1 August 1980)

M80-2243

PART I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

1. The second session of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements was convened in conformity with the decision of the Committee at its first session in October 1978 to hold meetings annually. It was however not possible to organize a meeting in 1979 because of inadequate resources.

B. Attendance

2. The meeting was convened at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 28 July to 1 August 1980 by invitation of the secretariat to the States members of the Commission.

3. Representatives of the following African countries attended the meeting: Algeria, Benin, Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, the Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, the United Republic of Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Zaire.

4. The newly independent State of Zimbabwe participated in the meeting as an observer.

5. The following countries were represented at the meeting by observers: Argentina, Austria, Canada, Cuba, France, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Indonesia, The Republic of Korea, Romania, Sweden and Turkey.

6. The following organizations of the United Nations system were represented at the meeting: The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (Habitat), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

7. The following intergovernmental and regional organizations were also represented in an observer capacity: the African Development Bank (ADB), the African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO), and the European Economic Community (EEC).

C. Opening of the meeting

8. The meeting was opened by Professor Adebayo Adedeji, Executive Secretary of ECA, who after welcoming delegates, observers and participants summarized the objective of the meeting as being to outline an African strategy for human settlements in the light of the African strategy for the third United Nations Development Decade and the Plan of Action based on that strategy which was prepared by the Conference of Ministers of the Commission and ratified by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Lagos in April 1980. He stressed the objective of self-reliance and self-sustained processes of development, and hence the economic implications of the different

strategies for human settlements such as rural development and, in general, the importance of good accessibility between home and work places; special projects such as river basin development schemes deserved particular attention, and the secretariat was prepared to provide the necessary assistance if invited to do so.

9. The Executive Secretary then briefly reviewed the activities undertaken by ECA since the first session of the Committee and outlined the utilization of budgetary and extrabudgetary resources as well as co-operation with other organs of the United Nations system. He specially underlined the co-operation between ECA and UNCHS (Habitat), and hoped for an increasing and ever stronger co-operation, warning against both over-centralization and over-globalization. He strongly recommended that initiatives should be left at the regional and national levels, in line with resolutions and decisions of the Vancouver Conference.

10. The representative of UNCHS (Habitat) Mr. Darshan Johal then read a statement on behalf of the Executive Director, Dr. Arcot Ramachandran. He pledged the full support of the UNCHS to ECA and the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements to deal effectively with the problems of human settlements in the African region. He stressed the importance of the meeting as many of the items on the agenda were reflected in the work programmes of both UNCHS and ECA. He gave an account of recent activities of UNCHS especially in the African region and noted that nearly 140 projects were being executed in 57 countries, including 25 African countries. He referred to the establishment of a Unified Information Service in UNCHS, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 32/162 and decisions of the Commission on Human Settlements.

11. The focus of UNCHS activities, he stressed, was on least-developed countries; upgrading of slum and squatter settlements and improvement of rural areas; training technical personnel required for human settlements planning; and development of building materials technology and the construction industry. He drew attention to the deliberations of the Human Settlements Commission at its third session which called for close collaboration and co-ordination between UNCHS and the regional commissions such as ECA in the formulation and implementation of human settlements programmes. The Executive Director of UNCHS expressed the hope that this meeting would provide a clear indication of the priorities which the ECA countries would assign to various human settlements issues which would be useful in devising effective human settlements programmes and projects in the respective work programmes of UNCHS and ECA.

D. Election of officers

12. Before the election of officers for the current meeting, the out-going Chairman H.E. Mr. K.T.J. Rakhetla, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Lesotho, expressed his thanks to the ECA secretariat for the useful documentation prepared for the meeting and to distinguished delegates for their co-operation and assistance in the past.

13. The following officers were elected:

Chairman:	H.E. Alhaji Ahmed Musa, Minister of State, Federal Ministry of Housing and Environment. Lagos, Nigeria
First Vice-Chairman:	Mr. M.M.P. Mnisi, His Majesty's Senior Liaison Officer, Malkerns, Swaziland
Second Vice-Chairman:	Mr Hakimi Ahmed, Sous-Directeur, Ministere de l'intérieur, Alger, Algeria
Third Vice-Chairman:	Dr. Musafili Ildephonse, Ministre de la Santé Publique, Rwanda
Rapporteur:	Mr. Aklilu Mewaee, Head of the Early Warning and Planning Department, Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

E. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

14. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda and draft programme of work prepared by the secretariat.

PART II

ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS AND AGREED CONCLUSIONS

A. Progress in the implementation of resolutions of the first session of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements (Agenda item 4)

15. The representative of the secretariat gave a brief summary of the document E/CN.14/HUS/42 which dealt with the implementation of the four resolutions adopted by the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements at its first session in October 1978. As regards resolution 1(I) on institutional arrangements which addressed both the secretariat and the States members of the Commission, the document showed that the secretariat and its Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) had implemented those provisions of the resolution concerning them as satisfactorily as was consistent with the resources available to them. The secretariat was awaiting the result of the administrative and institutional review of ECA recently undertaken by the United Nations headquarters pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/197 which is expected to include suggestions on the administrative status of the technical unit of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements.

16. On resolution 2(I) concerning the programme of work and priorities for 1978-1979, the document highlighted the communications gap that existed between the countries and the secretariat, the inadequate material and human resources available to the secretariat to carry out the provisions of the resolution, and emphasized some of the

deficiencies that beset human settlement institutions in some of the countries surveyed by the secretariat.

17. As regards resolution 3(I) concerning mobilization of resources for the implementation of the human settlements work programme, the document stated the inadequate staffing position of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements secretariat and referred to the two personnel expected to be redeployed from Habitat in the near future to carry out the component of the work programme of UNCHS which pertains to the African region. The document also highlighted the measure of success achieved by the secretariat both at the MULPOC and headquarters levels, and pointed out the importance of maintaining the services of the existing experts in the Niamey and Lusaka MULPOCs as well as providing the remaining MULPOCs at Gisenyi, Yaounde and Tangiers with human settlements experts.

18. As far as resolution 4(I) on the development of the building materials and construction industries was concerned, the document indicated the satisfactory progress achieved in its implementation, thanks to the high degree of support accorded it by Governments in the region. At the same time the document pointed out the inadequacy of resources when compared with the scope of the building materials and construction industries development programme. The representative of the secretariat drew the attention of participants to a detailed report (E/CN.14/HUS/42/Add.1) on the implementation of this resolution.

19. In the discussions which followed the above presentation, participants from several countries referred to paragraph 4 of document E/CN.14/HUS/42 and observed that it was not correct to take the view that hardly any African country had effectively restructured its institutional machinery. They reported the actions that had been taken or were being planned towards the implementation of resolution 1(I) in their countries and highlighted their achievements, their problems and the nature of assistance needed for implementation.

20. Pursuant to the Habitat Conference of 1976, several African countries had reviewed the scope and adequacy of their institutional machinery and had since introduced the required changes for restructuring it. Some countries had set up a separate ministry or a department or a directorate for dealing with matters relating to human settlements on an exclusive basis. Some of the organizations created in other countries for this purpose were meant to look after specific aspects of human settlements such as building finance, low-income housing, relief and rehabilitation of sections of the population affected by natural and man-made disasters and the improvement of the living conditions of the rural population. In some countries, the scope of the responsibilities and activities of existing agencies had been enlarged, in order to enable them to deal effectively with specific aspects of human settlements including the environment. Popular participation and active involvement of the population in the formulation and implementation of human settlements programmes such as co-operative housing and self-help housing were being encouraged through the formation of urban and rural dwellers' associations.

21. The discussion revealed that while considerable progress had been made in some countries towards the implementation of resolution 1(I), there were some countries where conditions had not so far been conducive to bringing about the required institutional changes quickly, but earnest efforts were now being made in this direction

and it would take some more time to complete the task of restructuring the institution and the existing administrative arrangements. The position was noted and it was agreed that ECA would be kept informed by member States of the progress made.

22. Resource constraints and inadequate or lack of expertise were cited among the major problems which came in the way of expediting the introduction of the institutional changes. International and bilateral assistance, both in respect of resources and expertise, was necessary. In this connexion, the scope of assistance from ECA in co-operation with UNCHS was stressed by several countries. ECA's services through its MULPOCs were appreciated but the problem was that among the five ECA MULPOCs in position at present, only two (Lusaka and Niamey) were equipped with experts to provide services in the field of human settlements, including building materials. It was necessary to maintain the tempo of the services provided by the two MULPOCs and to introduce such services soon in the other MULPOCs located at Gisenyi, Yaounde and Tangiers.

23. On the question of information services, including audio-visual materials provided by Vision-Habitat, it was felt that it would also be useful to extend these services. It was explained by the representative of UNCHS that Vision-Habitat services were so far based on extra-budgetary support derived from voluntary sources. With regards to resources which were to be redeployed from UNCHS to the regional commissions, the General Assembly had decided in favour of a provisional support through a lump-sum grant for a specified period. The lump-sum provision was insufficient and UNCHS would need the support of the regional commissions when it takes up this matter at the General Assembly later this year.

24. The Africa regional office of Vision-Habitat was located in Nairobi for convenience of operational co-ordination with UNCHS which was also located there. At present, Vision-Habitat had a subregional office only at Dakar. Because of this location factor, several African countries experienced a practical problem of limited access to the services of Vision-Habitat. Keeping in view the problem of budgetary constraints for extending the services of Vision-Habitat, it was suggested that Vision-Habitat should consider ways and means of utilizing the existing ECA MULPOCs facilities as useful field instruments for making available its services to a larger number of African countries.

25. The participants welcomed and expressed appreciation for ECA's initiative and efforts in promoting the development of the building materials and construction industries. This was an activity of far-reaching importance for the African countries. Some countries recounted their own efforts in respect of setting up additional plant capacities for increasing the production of building materials such as cement and clay bricks and the creation of building and building materials research facilities. In some countries, the construction activities were severely handicapped by the exhorbitant price of cement (amounting to nearly 270-300 US dollars per tonne, transport included) and the shortage in its availability. ECA assistance was necessary to enable the countries to augment their capacity for cement production and to develop suitable substitutes for cement, wherever possible.

26. Both the document (E/CN.14/HUS/42 and E/CN.14/HUS/42/Add.1) were thereafter accepted subject to the proviso that paragraph 4 of document E/CN.14/HUS/42 would be redrafted to indicate clearly the position that some African countries had made significant efforts towards restructuring their institutional machineries while others were yet to do so.

B. Human settlements and the African Development Strategy (agenda item 5)

27. The representative of ECA introduced document E/CN.14/HUS/43 which discussed the implications of the African Strategy for Development on the development of human settlements in the light of the objective of achieving an increasing measure of self-reliant and internally-generated processes of development. The role of national and subnational planning, and the spatial distribution of activities that would be generated by this strategy were defined in accordance with development plans and priorities of developing countries in the African region. The document ended with proposals for a regional human settlements development policy taking account of integrated rural/urban planning through communication and transportation network; development of local building materials and construction industries deploying seasonal and surplus labour available from agricultural activities; energy development, consumption, conservation and substitution, as well as an appropriate institutional and organizational framework and the decentralization of the decision-making mechanism and resource allocation.

28. In the discussions which followed the presentation of the document, delegates gave an overview of the prevailing situation concerning the problems of human settlements and the solutions that had been applied to them in their respective countries. Specific exceptions in regard to infant mortality rate, high cost of drugs in rural areas, and land speculation were cited. One delegation reported that in his country speculation on urban land no longer exists and the emphasis will be on rural development for the next three years. Some delegations were pleased to note that the document reflected the policies and programmes already adopted in their countries.

29. Delegates were unanimously of the view that human settlements problems should not be considered as synonymous with housing problems only but should encompass other sectors of development. The need for case-studies and pilot projects on institutional arrangements, project implementation and, in particular, integrated rural planning methodologies was strongly emphasized. The case studies should range from large-scale projects at national level to small rural development schemes and provision of basic services including linkages with a rural-urban network through villages, market towns and cities; and communication and transport facilities.

30. The success of past and on-going pilot projects varied from country to country depending on both the availability of resources and the skill in planning and programming their implementation. One delegation felt that urban areas had retained the exaggerated attention of policy makers and politicians in Member States. A recurring theme was the upgrading of marginal and squatter settlements. In general, Governments were striving to provide basic infrastructural facilities and public utilities in the peri-urban areas affected by squatter settlements and all their attendant ills. The secretariat was requested to assemble and disseminate the reports on these country experiences since they would be of interest to all member States in learning from the mistakes and successes of the projects cited.

31. A delegation referred to paragraph 61 pointing out that their Government was planning and implementing regional programmes and found the proposal for pilot studies of particular interest. They envisaged requesting ECA for assistance in the implementation of the proposed study process. They also drew attention to

the income per capita yardstick being used by international agencies in the allocation of soft loans; this delegation was of the opinion that other criteria should also be designed to take into account the general conditions prevailing in a country and its potential for economic development.

32. Some delegations expressed concern about the high growth of population in the region and called for effective measures to improve the situation in countries so affected.

33. Some delegations expressed concern about the fact that even though the prices of raw materials exported to the developed countries fluctuated downwards frequently, the prices of finished goods which were imported into Africa always tended to increase. The effective control of natural resources as a prerequisite to self-determined and self-sustained development towards satisfying the need of the population at large was stressed. Many delegates subscribed to the main theme of the strategy for development in the organization of viable markets and channels of distribution in stimulating national and intra-African processing of basic products.

34. Many delegations thought that although many political leaders were aware of human settlements problems, the need for increasing their awareness was desirable. To this end it was suggested that participation at meetings addressed to the problems of and the opportunities generated by human settlements in the region should be encouraged.

35. The Chairman, in conclusion, expressed the view that the document covered a wide range of topics and was well presented, and had stimulated a useful exchange of views.

C. Review of the programme of work and priorities for 1980-1981 (agenda item 6)

36. The representative of the secretariat introduced document E/CN.14/HUS/44 and explained that since the Committee did not hold a meeting in 1979, the document included a review of the work programme and priorities from October 1978 to December 1979. It was recalled that the Committee at its first session had adopted the work programme and priorities for 1978-1979 which had been approved by the Conference of Ministers at Kinshasa in March 1977, as well as the proposed medium-term plan for 1980-1983 and a tentative programme of work and priorities for 1980-1981 with projections to 1982-1983.

37. The document gave a detailed review of the work programmes and provided explanations and reasons for reformulating some projects, abolishing one and shifting others from one biennium to another. After highlighting the characteristics of the new style of ECA work programme in which account was taken of the MULPOC work programmes and priorities, the document concluded by giving a brief summary of the activities being undertaken at the subregional level by human settlements experts based in the Lusaka and Niamey MULPOCs, respectively.

38. The Regional Adviser on human settlements in the Lusaka MULPOC introduced document E/CN.14/HUS/50 and highlighted the unique and distinct problems of human settlements in the subregion and stressed the need for conceptualizing the problems of island countries, land-locked countries, mining settlements, river valleys and lake regions, port-towns and their hinterlands, settlements for migratory labour, townships for iron and steel complexes and settlements for the resettlement and rehabilitation of

displaced persons, and formulating appropriate principles and methods for solving them. Highlighting the magnitude, complexity and urgency of the problem of planning and developing settlements for refugees in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Zambia and several other countries, the Adviser suggested design parameters to be kept in view.

39. The Regional Adviser emphasized the need for training technical personnel in human settlements technology at various levels and observed that the greatest deficiency was felt at the intermediate/technician level. He made a plea for assessing the manpower requirements in human settlements at both professional and sub-professional levels; strengthening the existing schools of environmental studies; and establishing new schools for training human settlement planners in the subregion. Finally the Regional Adviser gave a brief account of the various activities and outputs of the Lusaka MULPOC in human settlements planning and development.

40. The Regional Adviser on human settlements in the Niamey MULPOC presented a brief verbal note on his activities in the subregion. These consisted mainly in assisting member States in the subregion in the identification of human settlements problems and in the formulation of alternative solutions and the modalities for their implentation. As a result of this initial assistance given to member States, the MULPOC Council of Ministers at their meeting in Niamey in February 1980 adopted a programme covering a series of activities relating to human settlements, as indicated in paragraph 27 of document E/CN.14/HUS/44. The Committee was also informed of the meeting of a subregional committee on human settlements scheduled for December 1980. This meeting will deal mainly with a review of housing problems.

41. The Regional Adviser referred to specific assistance given to countries of the subregion particularly in relation to the building materials programme, the implementation of programmes relating to co-operative and self-help housing and the promotion of rural housing in the Senegal River Basin. He concluded by drawing the attention of the Committee to the need to give special attention to the problems of the Sahelian countries which are victims of drought.

42. In the discussion which followed the presentations one delegation regretted the problems of implementation which had led to the rephasing of some activities contained in the programme of work adopted by the Committee at its first session. The delegation particularly regretted the failure to organize the seminar on the impact of national self-help housing programmes contained in programme elements 9.291.31 and 9.292.02 and urged the secretariat to take every necessary step to ensure their implementation with the activities planned for 1980-1981.

43. The secretariat was also urged to give high priority to assisting member States in the preparation and/or updating of national maps which were essential in the analysis and solution of human settlements problems.

44. One delegation sought clarification from the secretariat on the criteria for obtaining the assistance of experts/advisers posted in the MULPOCs. The representative of the secretariat explained the procedure to be followed and reiterated the insufficiency of funds as the reason for the absence of experts on human settlements in the Gisenyi, Tangiers and Yaounde MULPOCs. The secretariat also informed the Committee of efforts being made to maintain the services of the advisers posted in the Lusaka and Niamey MULPOCs and for providing the services of experts in the other three MULPOCs, and urged the Committee to request the Council of Ministers of the

five MULPOCs to help in this regard. The secretariat was requested to prepare a document on the human settlements activities in the Niamey MULPOC and have it circulated to all countries.

45. One delegation urged the secretariat to include in the papers for future meetings progress reports on human settlement activities in the MULPOCs. The secretariat took note of this request and promised to take the required action.

46. At the end of the discussions, the Committee:

(a) Adopted the proposals submitted by the secretariat subject to the amendments proposed by the various delegations;

(b) Condemned the aggressive actions of wars on established human settlements; and

(c) Condemned South Africa's action in demolishing established human settlements in the Southern African States.

47. Mr. Godfrey Chidyausiku, Deputy Minister of Local Government and Housing who represented Zimbabwe as an observer made a statement in which he highlighted the organizational institution dealing with human settlements questions and indicated the problems addressed and the solutions contemplated by his Government over the coming five years. The statement elaborated the main components of the housing policy and plan which included low-cost urban housing, regional planning, integrated rural development in tribal areas and small-scale and rural-based industry.

D. Proposed programme of work and priorities for 1982-1984 and the medium term plan 1984-1989 (agenda item 7)

48. Introducing document E/CN.14/HUS/45, the representative of ECA made a brief presentation of the salient points of the ECA proposals for the work programme and priorities for the period 1982-1984 which was being submitted for the consideration of and approval by the Committee. The proposals took into account the modus operandi for mobilization of resources for programme implementation and for decentralization of headquarters resources for strengthening the subregional offices (MULPOC), and the decisions adopted by the Conference of Ministers (Addis Ababa, April 1980) and the Lagos Plan of Action adopted by the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government (Lagos, April 1980) which outlined the African development strategy and identified the priority action targets.

49. The programme elements would be aimed at assisting the member States [illegible] machineries for co-ordinating the various disciplines, to develop information and training activities for regional planners and spatial planning technicians, and to establish urban networks which will extend the provision of facilities and essential services to geographical areas where development-generating activities, particularly in rural areas, take place. Popular participation programmes, the development of river basins, improvement of housing in squatter suburbs and the development of the building materials and construction industries would also be emphasized.

50. The document also outlined provisionally the 1984-1989 medium-term plan, which would cover human settlements policies and strategies based on spatial organization of economic activities and promotion of appropriate machineries: town planning; housing policies; skill development; development of building materials and construction industries; and institutions and management.

51. In the discussion which followed the above presentation, the participants commended the secretariat for the preparation of the document, described the proposals as pertinent to the needs of the region, and recommended its adoption. Some delegations drew attention to specific features such as training, information, problems of resettlement of displaced persons, integration of rural development with economic planning and emphasized their importance.

52. Many delegations referred to the question of implementation and the resources needed for it. The general consensus was that ECA had the potential for carrying out the programme provided its resources were to be substantially augmented. Suggestions made by some delegations in this connexion were the following:

(a) The United Nations Secretary General should be urged to take steps to ensure the release of additional funds to ECA for human settlements development in the African region;

(b) A certain portion of the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development should be earmarked for the human settlements development activities proposed in the ECA document and this should be administered by ECA;

(c) Member States should also assist by pledging and providing necessary additional contributions;

(d) Other UN agencies which are concerned with the human settlements programme as a whole or with specific aspects of it should similarly support ECA with resources (funds, expertise, etc.).

53. The importance of institution-building for carrying out the programme at regional, subregional and national level was stressed. In this context, suggestions were made for strengthening the human settlements expertise in MULPOCs, and for designing through them model organizations at subregional level for policy formulation and programme implementation, and for the establishment of national human settlements authorities in member States where they are not already established.

54. One delegation suggested the initiation on a subregional basis of pilot projects and construction in which design and space standards could be tested in actual planning of community services and model housing estates.

55. The remodelling of the transportation and communication systems, the transformation of the rural sector and its economy based on agro-industries and resource development in the hinterland with regard to structuring the local market in a viable commercial and economic entity suggest that the cost of the investment programme may well be prohibitive. However, it was felt that these development activities were the pre-requisite to creating a self-sustained and self-reliant development process in

accordance with the Lagos Plan of Action. It was therefore necessary to establish techniques and methodologies susceptible to producing a rationale for the determination of priorities. One delegation felt it necessary to formulate a resolution requesting ECA to give overriding priority to the development of operational methodologies that could be applied to pilot studies aimed at the transformation of the rural and urban network into a viable economic, social and market entity.

E. Proposed co-operation arrangements between ECA and UNCHS (Habitat) for the implementation of the work programme and priorities for 1980-1981 and 1982-1984 (agenda item 8)

Co-operation with United Nations and other organizations in the field of human settlements (agenda item 9)

56. Introducing document E/CN.14/HUS/46 and E/CN.14/HUS/47 on the above agenda items, the representative of ECA explained that they were being submitted in compliance with resolution 1(I) adopted at the first session of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements. Even the best programmes were of little value if resources for their implementation were lacking. No single organization could claim to have the necessary resources to effectively contribute by itself to all the aspects of human settlements development. Resources of all concerned bodies would need to be pooled, bearing in mind the complexity of the tasks involved.

57. Co-operation with UNCHS, among all organizations concerned with human settlements was of special importance and there was already a working relationship between ECA and UNCHS. The relationship that existed prior to the Vancouver Conference was no longer adequate for effectively dealing with the new aspects of the regional and subregional demands for human settlements development. Human settlements development was part and parcel of the over-all development of the region for which ECA had specific responsibilities. It was for this purpose and under the mandate of United Nations General Assembly resolution 32/162, that the Conference of Ministers had set up the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements to ensure that human settlements development was properly integrated with the over-all developmental strategy and implementation 1/.

58. The existing working relationship between ECA and UNCHS needed to be reinforced in the spirit of operational complementarity, harmonization in programme planning and execution at the regional level and in providing assistance to African countries at field level with the required technical and logistic support. What was now envisaged was that through a new basis of appropriate co-operation arrangement, ECA and UNCHS should jointly design the elements of action and elaborate the project activities pertaining to the African region in the field of human settlements in conformity with the Lagos Plan of Action. The areas of co-operation identified were:

(a) Development and strengthening of regional, subregional and national settlements policies with special reference to social and economic objectives;

(b) Designing the methods of meeting human settlements demands with special reference to institutional and promotional services, housing finance, building materials production and construction services;

1/ See Commission resolutions 316(XIII) and 358 (XIV).

(c) Transfer of technology with special reference to improvement of rural housing, low-income urban housing and of slums and squatter settlements;

(d) Inter-country co-operation;

(e) Manpower and skills development.

59. ECA and UNCHS have had consultations from time to time on the ways and means of organizing the required co-operation. The modalities of co-operation were yet to be finalized.

60. In the discussion which followed the presentation, the delegates expressed appreciation of the contents of document E/CN.14/HUS/46 and accepted the following modifications suggested by some delegations:

Para 4 - line 14:

to add "drought" after "disasters like"

Para 6 (iv)

to add "related market activities" after "the place of agriculture and industry"

Para 6 (ix)

to add "and water supply" after "health".

61. Referring to para 11 (c), one delegation sought clarification on the modalities for the proposed transfer of technology. The secretariat explained that the on-going special project activities of the ECA Experts' team on building materials and construction industries were aimed at this aspect. Already, the groundwork for building and building materials research development had been laid. Work on the establishment of information and technology exchange systems including study missions by experts from African countries to other developing countries like India, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea and the People's Republic of China and technical workshops was being planned by the team. The suggestion made by a delegation to keep in mind the need for transfer of production process formula in the arrangements for transfer of technology was accepted. The importance of innovative and cost-reduction technologies for building materials production was also stressed by him. Another delegation emphasized the need for self-help technologies for the production of building materials.

62. Based on the discussion, the delegates adopted the document E/CN.14/HUS/46 and requested ECA and UNCHS to follow up the proposals. It was also stressed that African governments must take a step further to ensure that in their participation in all meetings, they took a positive and unified stand in support of this approach in concert with ECA.

63. The representative of UNCHS had earlier informed the Committee about the six specific projects included in the 1980/1981 work programme of the UNCHS (Habitat) which were of particular interest to the African region and would be implemented subject to the availability of funds. The projects were:

(a) Training in settlement planning in Africa;

(b) Innovative approach to assist slum, squatter and rural households to improve their dwellings;

(c) Rationalization of the local building materials industry, choice of appropriate building technologies and improvement of the construction industry in Africa;

(d) Appropriate technologies in the building sector;

(e) Audio-visual aids on the local building materials in Africa;

(f) Guidelines for establishing and strengthening institutions for upgrading low-income settlements in urban and rural settings.

64. As regards the 1982-1983 programme budget and the 1984-1989 medium-term plan, the representative of UNCHS stated that although at its third session the Commission on Human Settlements gave some general guidelines, the secretariat had not as yet started work on the preparation of these documents. It would, therefore, be premature to discuss HABITAT's next programme budget and the medium-term plan at this stage.

65. Several delegations drew attention to the fact that the transfer of resources to the regional commission had not yet been effected in compliance with the previous resolutions of the General Assembly and the Intergovernmental Regional Committee and proposed that the need for expediting the transfer must be reiterated in a fresh resolution. Some delegations stressed on the need for accelerating the process of effective redeployment of available resources from UNCHS to the African region; and increased ECA involvement in the carrying out of the decentralized component of the activities, keeping in mind the spirit of the decisions taken at the Lagos Economic Summit.

66. During the discussion on agenda item 9, the representative of ILO, UNESCO, the African Development Bank, and the African Regional Organization for Standardization, conveyed their strong interest in co-operating with ECA in specific areas of human settlements development.

67. The representative of ILO referred to the on-going national and multinational ILO projects in the field of labour-intensive public works development, its planning and organization related to infrastructure components which included roofing materials in African countries. ILO was giving special attention to pilot programmes in several least-developed countries of the region as a prelude to the launching of full-fledged national programmes. He identified work opportunities and employment generation and study of skills in settlement areas as two specific areas of co-operation possibilities between ECA and ILO.

68. The representative of UNESCO stressed the need for ECA/UNESCO co-operation in the field of education, manpower and skills training and social and cultural aspects of settlements. He felt that this co-operation could best be implemented by the participation of UNESCO in studies and implementation of projects in the African region formulated within a methodological framework.

69. The representative of the African Development Bank stressed that ADB should have a special place in ECA's co-operation arrangements by virtue of its unique involvement as the leading African financial institution in the development of human settlements projects. He recounted ADB's initiative and efforts to establish a regional housing finance institution, Shelter-Afrique, whose principal objective will be the mobilization of capital funds from which loans can be made to national housing institutions for financing housing projects in member States. Shelter-Afrique will be a key instrument for this purpose to narrow the gaps inherent in the credit limitations of national financial institutions in meeting the needs of the housing and construction sector. The establishment of clear policies and programmes for human settlements and of institutional machinery in African countries would be a pre-requisite for qualifying for assistance from Shelter-Afrique. The delegates welcomed the positive offer of support from ADB and requested ECA to assist African countries in mobilizing ADB assistance.

70. The representative of the African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO) mentioned that ARSO was primarily concerned with the preparation of regional standards for products of particular importance to Africa with special reference to products of interest to intra-African trade. He noted that, in the area of human settlements, ARSO is greatly interested in building materials and construction industries development and has been co-operating with ECA in its on-going studies on standards, building codes, and quality control of building materials. In this regard, he expressed ARSO's desire to co-operate fully with ECA in matters concerning standardization and quality control.

71. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) stated that although FAO was not a funding organization, it has a catalytic role to play in formulating strategies and project documents for rural development including human settlements. Through its regional office in Ghana, FAO was already assisting several countries in the region in that respect.

72. The delegates welcomed the offer of co-operation from FAO, ILO, UNESCO and ARSO, and asked that other organizations active in the field of human settlements, such as WHO should in future be invited to attend the Committee meetings.

F. Extension of the mandate of the Committee to include environmental matters (agenda item 10)
Any other business (agenda item 11)

73. The representative of the secretariat introduced the document entitled "Extension of the mandate of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements" (E/CN.14/HUS/48: ECA/ECU/80) which referred to UNEP Governing Council's decision 7/1 of 3 May 1979 inviting the attention of the regional commissions to the advantages of setting up intergovernmental regional committees for environmental matters, if they had not already done so. ECA had accordingly set up an Environment Co-ordination Unit (ECU) and at their meeting in Addis Ababa in April 1980, the Conference of Ministers had adopted resolution 378(XV) on the establishment of an intergovernmental regional committee on environmental matters, jointly with human settlements and with the participation of all member States of the Commission. After citing the establishment of the joint Environment and Human Settlements Division in ECE and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between UNEP and UNCHS as examples of joint action in the fields of human settlements and the environment, the document presented

the current terms of reference of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and concluded by proposing to amend those terms of reference to incorporate environmental matters.

74. In the discussion on this agenda item, there was consensus among the delegations that human settlements and environmental aspects were inseparable. The misunderstanding that the Committee was being asked to approve the creation of a separate entity on environmental matters was dispelled by explanations given both by the secretariat and some delegations. Some delegations believed that Commission resolution 378(XV) which decided to establish a joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environmental Matters was a rectification of the earlier resolution establishing the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements without regard to environmental matters. The extension of the mandate of the Committee was thus a logical step and should be welcomed. It was agreed that the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements would also deal with regional policies and programmes on the environment.

75. As for the modalities of operations of the joint Committee, there were divergent views among delegations at first. Some delegations feared that the environment might overshadow human settlements and, therefore, advocated separate committees while others favoured setting up sub-committees for the environment and human settlements which should be convened separately at alternate meetings. Yet others preferred an arrangement similar to that of the Joint Conference of Planners, Statisticians and Demographers where the topics under discussion were dealt with in sub-committees which reported to the plenary of the Joint Conference.

76. As regards representation at meetings of the joint committee, it was suggested that in the countries that had a ministry for human settlements and a separate ministry for the environment, representation may be drawn from both ministries.

77. On the question of resources available to the secretariat to enable it to deal effectively with the programme on environmental matters, it was pointed out that ECA had a Section dealing with human settlements and a Unit for environment co-ordination, and that it was up to them to strive for an increase in their respective resources. Nevertheless, the two entities must work as closely as possible with one another in all matters affecting their respective responsibilities.

78. In a reference to the separate roles of UNEP and UNCHS (HABITAT) and how they functioned without one overshadowing the other, the representative of UNCHS explained that modalities for co-operation between the two organizations were embodied in General Assembly resolutions which created UNCHS as well as in the joint Memorandum of Understanding signed by them in February 1980.

79. Some delegations considered that since the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements was created by a General Assembly resolution, it had the right and duty to act as an agent of UNEP in all environmental matters affecting the African region. On that constitutional basis, the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements could also decide to deal with environmental matters in the region. This idea was seen as a compromise around which those delegations who were sceptical about duplicating the role of existing organizations eventually rallied.

80. One delegation advocated that since the Committee on Human Settlements will act as the agent of UNEP in Africa, the Environment Co-ordination Unit of ECA should be attached to Human Settlements.

81. Some delegations suggested that in order to co-ordinate activities and unify the African position on matters of regional human settlements questions, the representatives of the African member States of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements should meet with the ECA Human Settlements Unit prior to the meeting of the Commission. For reasons of economy, the meeting may take place at the venue of the Commission's session.

82. On the question of frequency and duration of meetings, the consensus was reached to hold joint meetings on environment and human settlements every two years and to prolong the duration of meetings as necessary. There was also agreement that the secretariat was free to call for extraordinary meetings when necessary.

83. In concluding the discussion on the agenda item, the Chairman congratulated the meeting on reaching agreement, without a vote, that:

(a) The Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements agrees to extend its mandate to include environmental matters;

(b) The ECA secretariat should redraft the terms of reference included in Section IV of document E/CN.14/HUS/48; ECA/ECU/80 with a view to incorporating environmental aspects. More specifically, paragraph 10(ii) should be deleted and paragraph 11 rewritten to convey the meeting that the Committee on Human Settlements should become an agent of UNEP on environmental matters in the African region;

(c) The Committee on Human Settlements shall meet every two years at a date to be decided by the secretariat with due regard to the meeting of the relevant legislative bodies. The secretariat may also call for extraordinary meetings in the interim periods;

(d) The human settlements and environmental matters shall be discussed in joint sessions under arrangements to be decided upon at each section according to the topics to be discussed;

(e) The secretariat should endeavour to send the documents to be discussed at each session well in advance of the meeting.

G. Provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee (agenda item 12)

84. The representative of the secretariat introduced the document HUS/IRC.80/6 entitled: "Provisional agenda for the third meeting". He requested the participants to note that the provisional agenda was drafted before the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and, therefore, the agenda included two topics for discussion at the third session, which referred only to human settlements.

85. The secretariat highlighted the importance of the two topics to be discussed in the third session, namely, (a) "Human settlements and the African strategy for development: spatial organization of economic activities with special emphasis on development of rural areas" and (b) "Review of progress in the establishment of institutions and mechanisms for implementation of human settlements policies at national, subregional and regional levels" in the context of the Lagos Plan of Action.

86. During the discussion which followed, it was suggested that the title of the provisional agenda should be amended as "Provisional agenda for the third session of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment", in view of the decision taken by the Commission to extend its mandate to include matters relating to the environment. It was further suggested that the provisional agenda should be redrafted to take account of the extended mandate and the revised draft should be sent to governments with an explanatory note requesting comments and/or amendments. One delegation suggested that the secretariat should initiate a programme on the preparation of housing policy guidelines at the subregional level and that "Housing policy guidelines" would be one of the suitable subjects to be discussed at the third session.

87. The secretariat responded by welcoming the suggestions and observed that the secretariat would keep the provisional agenda flexible so as to be able to include topics suggested by member countries. It would perhaps be possible to include subregional themes relating to the Sahel subregion and coastal subregions in Africa, if the member countries gave the secretariat a feedback. The secretariat would be glad to associate with the countries in the region, as much as possible, in the formulation of the revised agenda.

88. Some delegates proposed that in addition to the Executive Secretary of ECA, the Executive Director, UNCHS (HABITAT), the Executive Director of UNEP and the Secretary-General of OAU should be invited to address the meetings of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee. One delegate requested that the Executive Secretary's opening address should be tabled in good time so that its content could be debated under agenda item 3.

89. The delegates suggested that documents for the sessions should be sent to member Governments well in advance of the meeting with a view to enabling them to come well prepared to the meeting. The secretariat may well find it expedient to postpone the Committee meeting should the documents be delayed and could not be sent in good time to member States.

90. The Chairman, in his closing statement, thanked the delegates for their contributions to the discussions and their co-operation in conducting the meeting. The Chairman thanked the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa for organizing the meeting of the Committee; then declared the second session of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements closed.

H. Audio-visual presentation by UNCHS (HABITAT)

91. UNCHS (HABITAT) screened five films dealing with various aspects of human settlements problems and solutions. The themes covered by the films included the use of indigenous building materials, public participations in development of infrastructure and services, promoting a framework for mobilizing the public to participate in communal affairs, and an appraisal of solutions to human settlements problems which had been adopted by some developed countries. The films were entitled:

(i) No fitting habitat:

(ii) Development without tears:

(iii) Housing in Africa:

(iv) Man and water in Benin:

(v) Traditional architecture in the Yemen.

92. Delegates and observers expressed great appreciations for the films. The UNCHS (HABITAT) representative informed the delegates that all HABITAT films could be loaned to or purchased by institutions in the African region.

PART III

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 1(II)

Regional Human Settlements policies and programmes

The Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements,

Recalling resolutions 1(I), 2(I), 3(I) adopted at its first session,

Bearing in mind the resolutions and recommendations adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, the Assembly of African Heads of State and Government and the implications of the Lagos Plan of Action for human settlements development, the Conference of Ministers of ECA and United Nations Commission on Human Settlements,

Noting with satisfaction that several countries in the African region have taken significant measures towards the effective restructuring of their institutional machinery related to human settlements

Noting that some other countries are yet to take steps for restructuring their institutional machinery due to certain constraints

Mindful that inadequate or lack of resources and expertise in the countries are among the major constraints to the expeditious and successful completion of the task of restructuring the institutional machinery on desired pattern to suit individual needs,

Recognizing the technical potential of ECA, to contribute effectively towards assisting the African countries in the above-mentioned task,

Noting the progress of actions in respect of the establishment of the Human Settlements Unit within the ECA secretariat to service the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and the establishment of effective and dynamic co-operation arrangements within the secretariat of the Commission and with other organizations,

Appreciating the full range of activities undertaken by the Housing, Construction and Physical Planning Section of ECA pending the formal establishment of the Human Settlements Unit,

Noting with appreciation the impact of the valuable expert field service in respect of human settlements development provided by ECA through its MULPCCs located in Lusaka and Niamey since the last one year,

Noting with concern that the resources at the disposal of ECA are grossly inadequate and far less commensurate with the actual needs of the human settlement activities of the African region and that the actions for redeployment of resources agreed upon are not yet complete,

A. Institutional arrangements

1. Recommends:

(a) That African Governments which have not yet introduced requisite measures for restructuring their institutional machinery for the tasks of formulation, implementation, evaluation and re-orientation of their human settlements policies, strategies and programmes for their effective integration with the overall national, social and economic objectives and programmes should do so expeditiously;

(b) That African Governments, if they so need, should avail of the technical assistance and advisory services of the Economic Commission for Africa for the completion of the above-mentioned tasks;

B. Technical assistance services

2. Requests:

(a) The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to take such appropriate steps to gear and augment the institutional facilities within ECA in order to extend the required technical assistance and advisory services to the African Governments effectively and speedily; and for this purpose, to:

(i) Further consolidate, strengthen and expand the Housing, Construction and Physical Planning Section at its headquarters into a full-fledged Division;

(ii) Strengthen the human settlements component of its MULPCC facilities in the subregions by continuing the services presently available at Lusaka and Niamey and by introducing such services at Gisenyi, Yaounde and Tangiers;

(b) The Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT) to take appropriate steps to make available the information and audio-visual services of Vision-Habitat to all African countries by utilizing the existing ECA MULPOC facilities in the various subregions;

C. Follow-up on Lagos Plan of Action

3. Requests:

(a) The Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements to ensure the involvement of the Economic Commission for Africa in all the regional technical assistance activities in respect of human settlements to be carried out by UNCHS in the African region, with a view to ensuring their effective integration and harmonization with the social and economic development programmes of the region keeping in view the mandate to ECA in this regard and ensuring adequate monitoring of their consistency with the Lagos Plan of Action and proper decentralization;

(b) All African member States of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements to hold preparatory meetings with the Human Settlements Section of the Economic Commission for Africa at least two days prior to the meetings of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements in order to ensure concerted approach and actions and proper co-ordination and effective decentralization, bearing in mind the decisions and priorities outlined by the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements;

D. Mobilization of resources

4. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements to redeploy immediately the resources already made available by the United Nations General Assembly in order to enable ECA to carry out required activities expeditiously;

5. Appeals to the Secretary-General of United Nations to lend his fullest support to the needs of the African region in respect of funds and assist in making available necessary allocation of additional funds to the Economic Commission for Africa for carrying out human settlements activities in the African region as per the mandate of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to take steps to include human settlements in the list of priority areas which should qualify for assistance from the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development and to have a share of the Fund earmarked for utilization for human settlements development programme and to have the allocated funds administered on the basis of the priorities expressed by the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements;

7. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to organize the mobilization of additional resources from various agencies, governments and countries;

E. Inter-agency co-operation

8. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements to accelerate their negotiations and finalize requisite co-operation on a regular and continuing basis between ECA and UNCHS taking into account the proposals adopted at the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements;

9. Welcomes the statements made by the representatives of ADB, FAO, ILO, UNESCO and the African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO) offering programme co-operation in specific areas of human settlements development;

10. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to follow up the offers and formulate appropriate joint programmes and activities for implementation;

11. Further welcomes the special interest evidenced by the African Development Bank in co-operating with ECA for the formulation and implementation of human settlements projects in the African region;

12. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to initiate negotiations with the African Development Bank and design appropriate form of co-operation which would enable mutual consultations and joint formulation and implementation of projects in the field of human settlements including production of building materials and development of construction services.

Resolution 2(II)

Development of the building materials and construction industries

The Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements,

Recalling its resolution 4(I) on the development of the building materials and construction industries in the African region,

Taking note with satisfaction of the various reports submitted on the Building Materials and Construction Industries Development Programme, particularly the "Progress report on the development of the building materials and construction industries in the African region", 1/

Stressing that the development of the building materials and construction industries is an essential ecomponent of the process aimed at promoting human settlements in the light and context of the African development strategy,

Reaffirming that in the context of this African development strategy everything should be done to mobilize natural, technological, financial and human resources available in the African region which are vital for the development of this sector,

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1/ Document E/CN.14/HUS/42/Add.1.

Convinced that, in spite of all these resources, there will still be need for a substantial international assistance to consolidate the results achieved in the Building Materials and Construction Industries Development Programme and to widen the field of activities of this Programme with a view to enabling the continent to be truly self-sufficient in the sector by the year 2000,

1. Commends the ECA secretariat for the dynamism with which the Programme is being implemented and for the positive results achieved since its inception;

2. Extends its gratitude to the African countries, to the international organization within the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) and to the other organizations outside this system and to the donor countries for the special interest that they have shown in the implementation of this Programme and particularly for the assistance they have extended so far;

3. Calls on all African countries to continue to vigourously support the Programme and take full advantage of the present and future services provided by it with a view to rapidly developing the infrastructure, services and systems directly and indirectly related to the promotion of their building materials and construction industries at the national, subregional and regional levels;

4. Urges the ECA Executive Secretary to redouble his effort not only in maintaining the momentum in the implementation of the Building Materials and Construction Industry Development Programme but also in ensuring that the scope of its activities is substantially expanded so as to be of further direct assistance to be given to countries at the national and subregional levels in:

(i) Evolving, improving and strengthening policies, strategies and operational instruments for programme and project implementation;

(ii) Producing essential building materials using appropriate technologies, local raw materials, bearing in mind the transportation costs involved and the efficiency of capacity utilization;

(iii) Effectively organizing the construction sub-sector to suit local needs and conditions through such measures as rationalization of building codes and regulations, materials standardization and quality control, skills development, etc.;

(iv) Setting up and strengthening African research, dissemination of information and documentation services in construction in general and building in particular with a view to developing new, practical and low-cost technologies, and to modernizing existing and traditional practices;

5. Requests the ECA Executive Secretary to take steps for organizing effective co-operation with other regional commissions for development of specific aspects of this sector taking into account the experiences and expertise of the developing and developed countries in other regions;

6. Urges the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other United Nations agencies, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, multilateral and bilateral donor countries and other bodies to provide resources, far beyond 1981, for the implementation of the Programme as a whole, and particularly at the level of the various subregions.

Resolution 3(II)

EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

The Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements,

Taking note the Commission resolution 378(XV) of 12 April 1980 on the Action Plan and institutional machinery for a regional programme on the environment for Africa,

Aware that any attempts at divorcing human settlements from its environmental aspects can only result in the deterioration of the quality of life,

Having considered the proposals contained in ECA document E/CN.14/HUS/48; ECA/ECU/80 regarding the extension of the mandate of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements to include environmental matters,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 concerning institutional arrangements at the regional level and Commission resolution 316(XIII) of 19 March 1977 on institutional arrangements in the field of human settlements at the regional level both of which gave the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements responsibility, inter alia, for formulating and implementing human settlements policies in the African region;

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, in which particular stress was laid on the responsibilities of the regional commissions in so far as regional co-ordination and co-operation were concerned,

Referring to Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/74 of 4 August 1978 on regional co-operation and development in which it reaffirmed its conviction that the regional commissions were in a particularly advantageous position to promote subregional, regional and interregional co-operation in their respective regions,

1. Decides to extend the mandate of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements to incorporate environmental matters;

2. Decides further that the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements shall act as agent of UNEP on all environmental matters pertaining to the African region;

3. Requests the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa to re-draft the terms of reference of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements to reflect the above decision and report to the next session;

4. Calls on the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT) to provide all the necessary assistance to the Committee to enable it implement its work programme in the fields of human settlements and the environment;

5. Invites the Executive Secretary of ECA to take the necessary steps with the Economic and Social Council to have the above amendments adopted and to report on this at the next session;

6. Calls on African States members of the United Nations Human Settlements Commission to hold a joint meeting with ECA Human Settlements Unit at least two days prior to any meeting of the said Commission to ensure proper co-ordination of activities and effective decentralization.

Resolution 4(II)

Status of refugees

The Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements,

Recalling Commission resolution 395(XV) of 12 April 1980 on the situation of refugees in Africa, in which it was recommended that the Economic Commission for Africa, in close co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Organization of African Unity, should dispose of the means required to carry out the duties that it might be requested to assume in the field of assistance to rural and urban refugees, and in the employment, training and education of refugees,

Bearing in mind the concerns expressed by member States of the Committee about the condition of urban and rural populations who have been displaced by acts of aggression or rendered homeless by other man-made and natural disasters and their interest in the expeditious return of these populations to the normal conditions of life in the villages and towns,

Noting that the location, design and development of the refugee settlements has not been given adequate attention,

1. Welcomes the efforts of the Governments and peoples of the affected countries aimed at national reconstruction, rehabilitation and resettlement;

2. Urgently appeals to the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to mobilize resources and initiate a special programme of assistance in the rehabilitation and resettlement of returnees/refugees in the member States that request such assistance, including planning and building of settlements for resettlement and rehabilitation;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to take all the necessary measures to ensure effective co-ordination, in the countries concerned, of the efforts of appropriate organizations and specialized agencies in relation to special programmes for the rehabilitation and resettlement of displaced persons.

Resolution 5(ii)

Development and application of methodologies and planning techniques studies

The Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements,

Recalling resolution CM/RES.722(XXXIII) Rev.1 and Lagos Plan of Action,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 3345 (XXIX) concerning the interrelationship between population, resources, environment and development and resolution 2(I) of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee of 6 October 1978 concerning [illegible] national framework,

Aware that the African continent is more drastically affected than the other regions of the world by misconception and erroneous strategies which tended to consolidate the region's external dependence for food, skills, capital goods, markets and even life-style and patterns of development and economic growth,

Noting the continuing state of unhealthy dependency, persistence of mass unemployment and underemployment, poverty, rural deprivation, unplanned urban growth, wide and increasing disparities in the distribution of income and wealth and gradual loss of cultural identity,

Further noting that approaches have been predominantly based on economic factors such as rate of growth of gross national product, rate of return on investment, indiscriminate foreign-based industrialization and technology, etc., and that sizeable section of populations, including women and the rural population, had been left out of the mainstream of development,

Conscious of the urgent desire of member States of the continent of Africa to contribute fully to the formulation of subregional and regional policies and the self-determination of national and regional (sub-national) policies and implementation of projects in their respective countries,

Aware of the enclave-dominated structures orientated to external trade and commerce inherited from the metropolitan powers, the fragmented market structures and the lack of distributive facilities at national level, the severance of rural sectors from urban areas, the lack of public utilities and services,

Desirous that the African strategy for development should be implemented fully on a self-reliant basis at the national, subregional and regional levels,

Bearing in mind the need for diverting resources to the rural sector to accelerate rural transportation and agro-based industries and provide services necessary to achieve this end and meet basic needs of the rural population at large,

1. Adopts the general principle as expressed in document E/CN.14/HUS/43 on "Human Settlements and the African Development Strategy" and document E/CN.14/HUS/42 on "Progress in the implementation of resolutions of the first session of the Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements" with particular reference to paragraphs 60 and 61 of the former and paragraphs 33 and 34 of the latter;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to allocate necessary resources and expertise in preparing the necessary brief for pilot studies based on a systematic approach susceptible to accelerate a rational decision-making process in the field of rural and urban network and to integrate human settlements consideration in the over-all development process and the pilot studies should be conceived so as to have a broad field of application in all member countries and should also be a continuous process of study reflecting institutional needs for constant monitoring and the evaluation of project performance;

3. Recommends that draft proposals should be submitted to member States not later than 31 March 1981;

4. Invites member States to study the draft proposals for pilot studies on the basis of the working documents and submit as soon as possible but not later than 30 June 1981, such comments and suggestions as they may have on the draft proposals to the Executive Secretary;

5. Expresses appreciation to the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa for the preparation of working documents E/CN.14/HUS/43 and E/CN.14/HUS/42.